EXCISE 16

SMITH VELMA T 05/05/82 082412 PRINTER: LI
81 SINGAPORE 5758
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PAGE 01 SINGAP 05758 120313Z
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 ICA-11 DOLE-00
H-01 IO-15 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-06 L-03
DOE-10 PM-09 PA-01 OMB-01 SAL-01 ACDA-12 SSN-02
SP-02 SPRS-02 /125 W

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R 120255Z JUN 81
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0391
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT BAGHDAD
C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 05758
E.O. 12065: RDS-1 6/12/91 (THAYER, HARRY E.T.)
TAGS: PEPR, IS, IZ, SN
SUBJ: (U) SINGAPORE CONDEMNS ISRAEL
1. (U) ON JUNE 10, SINGAPORE'S SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER S. RAJARATNAM, TOLD REPORTERS THAT ISRAEL'S ATTACK ON IRAQ WAS IRRESPONSIBLE AND PROVOCATIVE, AND SHOULD BE CONDEMNED. HE WAS QUOTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE STRAITS TIMES AS HAVING SAID THAT "YOU CAN'T GO AND ATTACK SOMEBODY ELSE'S ATOMIC REACTOR, BEFORE THEY'VE DONE ANYTHING. NO MORE THAN ON THE SAME BASIS THE ARABS CAN ATTACK ISRAELI REACTORS ON THE BASIS THEY ARE GOING TO DO THIS AND THAT."
2. (U) THE STRAITS TIMES OFTEN REFLECTS THE GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, AND ITS JUNE 10 EDITORIAL WAS EVEN STRONGER THAN RAJARATNAM'S STATEMENT. EXCERPTS INCLUDE: "ONE SHOULDN'T MINCE WORDS: THE ATTACK IS A FLAGRANT,
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UNPROVOKED BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SHOULD BE CONDEMNED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS." "PERHAPS IT IS UNFAIR AND TOO CYNICAL TO SAY THAT THE ISRAELI ACTION WAS TAKEN WITH AN EYE ON THE COMING JUNE 30 ELECTION - THE ISRAELIS LIKE A TOUGH LEADER - BUT APART FROM SETTING BACK THE IRAQI NUCLEAR PROGRAMME BY SEVERAL YEARS, IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW THAT WILL STOP THE IRAQIS OR ANOTHER OIL-RICH ARAB NATION FROM ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONRY IF THEY CAN AFFORD IT AND WANT TO. SUCH PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACKS WILL ONLY BEGET MORE DESTRUCTION IN THAT VOLATILE PART OF THE WORLD. WHAT FOLLY."
3. (C) [redacted] B-1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/87
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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PA OR FOI EXEMPTIONS
OR-P B-1

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END COMMENT. THAYER

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